

# Proposed SGA Constitution

## SGA Proposes New Constitution

This page shows the proposed SGA Constitution. The student body will vote on this revised constitution on Thursday, February 12, 1987. Voting will take place in Lakeside Student Center and in Thomas Cafeteria. We urge you to read the proposed constitution carefully and to cast your vote on Thursday.

We, the students of Chowan College recognizing that all powers and responsibilities are vested in the President of the college, and through him certain privileges and powers have been delegated to the administration, faculty, and students, do establish this constitution for the Chowan College Student Government Association.

### Preamble

### Article I. Legislative Section 1. Membership

Membership in the Student Legislature shall be composed of one representative from each floor or section in the residence halls and three representatives for day students, one of which shall be the president of the Day Student Organization, to be elected in September. All students registered at Chowan College are considered members of the Student Legislature.

A. Vacancies that occur between elections shall be filled upon request of the residence hall presidents subject to the approval of their residence hall councils within a two-week period.

B. Legislators, at the time of their election and during their term of office, shall have and maintain the following standards:

1. Shall have and maintain an average of 2.0 or above on all work attempted.
2. Shall be a full-time student of Chowan College.
3. Shall not assume any other office without having submitted a letter of approval in triplicate to the S.G.A. President, S.G.A. Faculty Sponsor, and the Dean of Students.

### Section 2. Legislative Powers

Legislative power in the student body shall be vested in a Student Legislature which has the following powers:

A. To appropriate funds for activities which shall prove beneficial to the general welfare of the student body.

B. To approve or reject by a majority vote all appointments made by the S.G.A. President.

C. To override a veto of the S.G.A. President with concurrence from fifty-one percent of the membership.

D. To establish procedures for the execution of its business.

E. To try impeachments (neglect of duty) of all student officers appointed or elected. No person shall be convicted of impeachment without concurrence from fifty-one percent of the membership. When the Vice President of the S.G.A. is tried for impeachment, the Treasurer of the S.G.A. shall preside.

F. To require oral reports from chairmen of standing committees and from Presidents of all organizations receiving appropriations from the S.G.A. and/or collecting dues or sponsoring money-making projects.

G. To propose and receive from members of the student body proposals for changes in rules and regulations which are necessary and proper to promote the general welfare of the student body. Upon approval of the voting majority of the Student Legislature, the proposals may be forwarded for consideration to the proper faculty-student committees.

H. To appeal recommendations of the faculty-student committees to the appropriate dean and then to the President of Chowan College whose decision is final. Such an appeal requires a voting majority.

I. To regulate the functioning of all standing or special committees under its jurisdiction.

J. To invite a person or group of persons from the College community to meetings of the Student Legislature for business purposes. Such invitations should be made with the approval of the Executive Cabinet or Student Legislature.

K. To appoint ad hoc committees composed of members of the Legislature.

L. To approve regulations governing student elections.

### Section 3. Presiding Officer

The S.G.A. Vice President shall preside when the Legislature is in session. The S.G.A. Treasurer shall preside in the absence of the Vice President.

### Section 4. Meetings

The Student Legislature shall meet every other Monday, as deemed necessary, or may be convened by the Vice President of the S.G.A. to discuss urgent matters if requested to do so by the S.G.A. President.

### Section 5. Minutes

Minutes of meetings of the Legislature shall be recorded by the Secretary of the Student Government Association.

### Section 6. Committees

The following standing committees shall be composed of members of the Student Legislature who are appointed by the S.G.A. President at the beginning of each academic year.

A. The Elections Committee, composed of the S.G.A. Executive Cabinet, shall have the responsibility of handling all elections as defined in Article IV.

B. The Regulatory Committee, composed of four members and the Auditor who serves as chairman, shall:

1. Request the resignation of legislators who accumulate more than three unexcused absences from meetings during a semester.
2. Inform the Residence Hall President or Residence Director and Day Student Advisor of those legislators required to resign. The legislator should be replaced before the next legislative meeting if at all possible.

C. The Student Activities Committee, composed of the Social Co-chairpersons and four members, shall have the responsibility of selecting speakers, bands, movies, and other forms of student activities approved by the Student Legislature.

D. The Special Events Committee, composed of four members and a chairman, shall cooperate with other students and faculty organizations in planning for the following events—Homecoming, including the parade, entertainment, dance, and crowning of the Homecoming Queen; Football Day for Parents; Spring Festival; and the S.G.A. Awards Banquet.

E. The Budget Committee, composed of four members and the S.G.A. and the S.G.A. Treasurer who serves as chairman, is responsible for making recommendations to the Student Legislature for approval by a voting majority.

F. The Campus Improvement Committee, composed of four members and a chairman, shall deal with the improvement and beautification of the campus for the benefit of student life.

G. The Constitution Committee, composed of the S.G.A. Executive Cabinet, shall review and make recommendations for revising and amending the S.G.A. Constitution before April 1 of each year.

H. The Publicity Committee, composed of four members and a chairman, oversees all publicity for events sponsored by the Student Government Association.

### Section 7. By-Laws

The By-Laws of all organizations sponsored by Chowan College shall be reviewed and approved by a majority vote of the Student Legislature upon the recommendation of the chairman of the Regulatory Committee.

### Section 8. Veto Power

The S.G.A. President shall have the veto power over the Legislature. The President of Chowan College shall have final veto power.

### Section 9. Advisors

Two faculty/staff members, appointed annually by the Committee on Committees, shall serve as advisors to the Student Government Association.

### Section 10. Quorum

Fifty-one percent of the members of the Student Legislature shall constitute a quorum.

### Article II. Executive

#### Section 1. Officers

The executive officers shall consist of a president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, social co-chairman for women, social co-chairman for men, auditor, and a historian. They shall be known as the Executive Cabinet and serve in an advisory capacity to the president of the S.G.A. The Executive Cabinet shall assume legislative decision-making powers during emergency situations.

A. Executive Officers, at the time of their election and during their term of office, shall have and maintain the following standards:

1. Shall have and maintain an average of 2.0 or above on all work attempted.
2. Shall have and maintain a good conduct record.
3. Shall be full-time students with at least one semester completed at Chowan College.
4. Shall not assume any other office without having submitted a letter of approval to the S.G.A. President and S.G.A. Faculty Sponsors.
5. Shall maintain a good attendance record at legislative meetings.

B. The President shall:

1. Represent the student body of Chowan College.
2. Convene and preside over meetings of the Executive Cabinet which shall meet regularly every two weeks or when necessary.
3. Request the Vice President of the S.G.A. to call a special meeting of the Student Legislature to discuss urgent matters. Such meetings may be closed if deemed necessary by the President.
4. Appoint students to faculty-student committees which function under the jurisdiction of the Academic Affairs Council. Such appointments must be approved by a voting majority of the Student Legislature.
5. Appoint individual members of the Student Legislature, with their consent, to standing committees which function under the jurisdiction of the Student Legislature.
6. Appoint members to ad hoc committees as deemed necessary.
7. Make appointments to fill vacancies in the Executive Cabinet which occur between elections. Such appointments must be approved by a voting majority of the Student Legislature.
8. Present recommendations to the Student Legislature.
9. Administer and enforce regulations enacted by the Student Legislature.
10. Veto an act of the Student Legislature within five days after approval of a recommendation.
11. Serve as an ex-officio member of all faculty-student committees functioning under the jurisdiction of the Academic Affairs Council and the Student Affairs Council, and require written reports from such committees if desired.
12. Require oral reports from student committees which function under the Student Legislature.
13. Call and preside over meetings of the student body if such meetings have been approved by a voting majority of the Student Legislature and the Dean of Students.
14. Make a report to the Board of Trustees of Chowan College when and if requested to do so by the President of Chowan College.
15. Submit to the president of Chowan College a report on S.G.A. activities, prepared in five copies, at the end of the academic year. Copies of this report should be given the Dean of the College, Dean of Students, S.G.A. Faculty Sponsors, and the S.G.A. files.
16. Address the Student Legislature or Chowan College Judiciary, provided he notifies the respective presiding officer in advance of his intentions.
17. Attend, at his pleasure, meetings of S.G.A. standing committees and the Chowan College Judiciary as a non-voting member.
18. Present a report to the student body at the beginning and end of the academic year.
19. Serve as the S.G.A. voting member of the Interclub Council.
20. Post and keep office hours, four hours per week, Monday through Thursday.
21. Perform other duties incident to the office.

C. The Vice President shall:

1. Serve as presiding officer and chairman of the Student Legislature.
2. Serve as a non-voting member of all legislative committees except when there is a tie vote among members of the Legislature.
3. Exercise the duties and assume the responsibilities of the S.G.A. President in his absence.
4. Assume the office of President in the event the position becomes vacant between elections.
5. Make a written report to the S.G.A. President at the end of each semester concerning affairs of the Student Legislature. Copies of this report should be given to the President of Chowan College, Dean of the College, Dean of Students, and faculty sponsor of the S.G.A.
6. Post and keep office hours, two hours per week, Monday through Thursday.
7. Perform all other duties incident to the office.

D. The Secretary shall:

1. Take minutes of all legislative sessions and keep same in a permanent form.
2. Take minutes of the sessions of the Executive Cabinet and keep same in a permanent form.
3. Forward copies of legislative minutes which have been reviewed by the respective presiding officer and the Faculty-Advisor to the following persons no later than the next legislative meeting:

- President of Chowan College
- Dean of the College
- Dean of Students
- S.G.A. Faculty Advisors
- S.G.A. Executive Officers
- S.G.A. Files
- S.G.A. to be posted for student body information.

4. Notify members of the Executive Cabinet, members of the Student Legislature, and the S.G.A. Faculty Advisors of their respective meetings.

5. Keep an accurate list of active S.G.A. Legislative members submitted by the Auditor.

6. Post and keep office hours, two hours per week, Monday through Thursday.

7. Perform all other duties incident to the office.

E. The Treasurer shall:

1. Work closely with members of the Budget Committee, consulting with them on business matters of the S.G.A. Faculty Sponsor.
2. Confer with the Business Manager of the College and the S.G.A. Faculty Sponsor.
3. Forward budgets to the Student Legislature for approval.
4. Keep an up-to-date record of business transactions of the S.G.A.
5. Present a monthly financial report to the Student Legislature and the Executive Cabinet. Copies of this report should be forwarded to the Faculty Sponsors of S.G.A., President of the College, and the Dean of Students.
6. Post and keep office hours, one hour per week, Monday through Thursday.
7. Perform all other duties incident to the office.

F. The Special Events Chairperson shall:

1. Standing Chairman of the Special Events Committee which plans Homecoming, including the parade, entertainment, dance and crowning of the Homecoming Queen, Spring Festival, and the S.G.A. awards banquet.
2. Oversee other events and committees dealing with special events sponsored by the S.G.A.
3. Maintain office hours, one per week, Monday through Thursday.
4. Perform other duties assigned by the S.G.A. President.

G. The Social Co-Chairmen for Men and Women shall:

1. Serve as ex-officio members of the Student Activities Committee and Budget Committee.
2. Serve as co-chairmen for the S.G.A. movies committee.
3. Attend all meetings of the Student Legislature.
4. Serve as co-chairmen of the Interclub Council.

5. Post and keep office hours, one hour per week, Monday through Thursday.

6. Perform other duties assigned by the S.G.A. President.

H. The Auditor shall:

1. Shall chair meetings of the Regulatory Committee when auditing financial records of College-sponsored organizations and standing committees and make a written report to the Student Legislature, Executive Cabinet, and Interclub Council at the end of each academic year. Forward copies of such reports to the S.G.A. President, Dean of Students, S.G.A. Faculty Sponsors, and respective organizations.
2. Audit reports shall be co-signed by the Auditor and the Treasurer of the S.G.A.
3. Make motions, upon recommendation of the Regulatory Committee, for impeachment of executive officers. When the Auditor of S.G.A. is tried for impeachment, the Treasurer of the S.G.A. shall make the motion.
4. Post and keep office hours, one hour per week, Monday through Thursday.
5. Perform other duties incident to the office.

I. The Historian shall:

1. Keep an up-to-date record of all recognized organizations sponsored by the S.G.A.
2. Compile an official Student Government Scrapbook File.
3. Post and keep office hours, one hour per day, Monday through Thursday.
4. Perform other duties incident to the office.

J. The Parliamentarian shall:

1. Serve as S.G.A. expert on parliamentary procedure and see that meetings are run under correct parliamentary procedures.
2. Oversee the training of fellow S.G.A. officers in the area of parliamentary procedures.
3. Attend Executive Council and Legislative meetings.
4. Post and keep office hours, one hour per week, Monday through Thursday.
5. Perform other duties incident to the office.

### Section 2. Interclub Council (ICC)

A. The Interclub Council, serving under the jurisdiction of the S.G.A., is an association of the presidents of all College-sponsored organizations and residence halls, and serves as a coordinating agency for student activities on campus.

B. The Social Co-Chairmen for Men and Women shall serve as the chairmen and preside at all meetings.

C. The Interclub Council meets as deemed necessary.

### Section 3. Impeachment Procedures

An officer shall be tried for impeachment on the grounds of neglect of duty as indicated in Article I, Section 2.E. In such cases, a motion shall be made by the Auditor and seconded by another executive officer. At such time, the floor will be open for discussion, after which a secret ballot will be taken and simple majority will determine the verdict. When the Auditor is tried for impeachment, the Treasurer shall make the motion.

### Article III. Judicial

#### Section 1. Honor Code

The Chowan College Honor Code is: "We will not lie, cheat, or steal, nor tolerate among us those who do."

#### Section 2. Campus Code

The Chowan College Campus Code is: "We are bound by our responsibilities as ladies and gentlemen to conduct ourselves as such at all times."

#### Section 3. Councils

The Judicial power of the Student Government Association shall be vested in a Residence Hall Council for each residence hall and the Chowan College Judiciary.

A. The purpose of the Residence Hall Council shall be to work with members of the residence hall staff in planning and implementing residence hall programs and activities and to help interpret and enforce college and residence hall regulations and procedures.

B. The purpose of the Chowan College Judiciary shall be to hear the evidence involving students who are accused of breaking the rules and regulations of Chowan College and to make recommendations as to guilt or innocence and penalty to the Dean of Students.

#### Section 4. Jurisdiction

A. The Residence Hall Council shall have original jurisdiction over infractions of residence hall regulations except those cases which might result in payment for damages to College or individual property exceeding \$25; fines and/or work detail exceeding 10 hours based on the work study rate of pay; periods of social campus exceeding two weeks in duration; preliminary suspensions; and suspension.

B. The Chowan College Judiciary shall have original jurisdiction over major rule infractions that are not delegated to Residence Hall Councils.

#### Section 5. Membership

A. The Residence Hall Council shall be composed of Residence Hall officers—president, vice president, secretary-treasurer, and social chairmen—and a number of council members, one for each unit (wing or floor), elected according to guidelines approved by the Residence, the Associate Dean of Students and Director of Residence Life. Residence Directors shall serve as advisors to the Residence Hall Council.

B. The Chowan College Judiciary shall be composed of four faculty/administrative staff members and one alternate and three student members and one alternate.

1. The faculty/administrative staff members shall be appointed by the Committee on Committees.
2. The student members shall be appointed by the Executive Officers of the Student Government Association prior to the end of each academic year to serve for the ensuing year.
3. The alternate faculty/administrative staff member shall serve in the absence of another faculty/administrative staff member.
4. The alternate student member shall serve in the absence of a duly appointed student member.
5. The Chowan College Judiciary shall follow the procedure for conducting a hearing as set forth in this Constitution.

#### Section 6. Qualifications of Candidates and Members

A. Student candidates will:

1. Have been enrolled at Chowan College for two full semesters.
2. Have a "C" average for the previous semester or previous mid-term grading period, whichever is nearer to the time of appointment.
3. Have a clear disciplinary record.

B. Student members must:

1. Maintain a "C" average on all work attempted and be in good academic standing.
2. Maintain a clear disciplinary record.
3. Not be a member of a Residence Hall Council.

C. Faculty/administrative staff members may be selected from any person classified as such.

#### Section 7. Appointment of Officers

A. The Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and Secretary shall be appointed by the Committee on Committees.

B. The secretary shall be a paid secretary of the college and not a member of the Judiciary.

#### Section 8. Duties of Officers

A. The Chairperson shall preside over all meetings and cast the deciding vote in case of a tie.

B. The Vice Chairperson shall assume the duties of the Chairperson in the temporary absence of the Chairperson.

C. The secretary shall provide copies of the minutes of the hearing.

#### Section 9. Duties of Members and Alternates

A. Members and Alternates shall be present at all meetings of the Chowan College Judiciary.

B. The Vice Chairperson shall assume the duties of the Chairperson in the temporary absence of the Chairperson.

C. The secretary shall provide copies of the minutes of the hearing.

D. An alternate will be seated to replace either a student member or a faculty/administrative staff member who has been excused or removed.

### Section 10. Hearing Proceedings

A. At least five(5) members of the Judiciary must be seated to constitute a quorum for a hearing to be conducted.

B. The accused student has the right to have present for a hearing an advisor, who shall be a current member of the college community, i.e., a member of the faculty, staff, or student body.

C. Voting shall be by secret ballot.

D. The Chowan College Judiciary shall decide whether the accused is guilty or not guilty as charged and shall decide upon a recommendation for penalty.

1. At the conclusion of the hearing, the student will be informed as to the recommendation of guilt or innocence.
2. The Dean of Students will be informed as to a recommended penalty.
3. The recommendation(s) of the Judiciary will be reviewed by the Dean of Students who has the authority to approve or alter the recommendation(s).
4. If approved, the accused student is notified accordingly.
5. If not approved, the Dean of Students will meet with the Judiciary to discuss the case further, after which the accused student will be informed of the final decision.

### Section 11. Appeals

A. A student has the right to appeal a decision and/or penalty rendered by the Residence Hall Council to the Chowan College Judiciary.

B. A student has the right to appeal a decision and/or penalty rendered by the Dean of Students, to the President of the College.

### Article IV. Elections

#### Section 1. Jurisdiction

All student elections shall come under the jurisdiction of the Elections Committee which functions as a standing committee under the Student Legislature.

#### Section 2. Election Rules

The Elections committee shall have the right to make additions and/or corrections to the following rules upon approval of a voting majority of the Student Legislature:

- A. Elections shall be held by secret ballot and counted by the Elections Committee.
- B. Each candidate has the right to address the student body and have a campaign manager.
- C. There shall be no campaigning or campaign material within fifty feet of the voting area.
- D. Campaign expenses shall not exceed \$25 per candidate.
- E. All campaign speeches and campaign material displayed in good taste.

#### Section 3. Installation of Officers

The Elections Committee shall arrange for all S.G.A. officers to be installed. Appointees filling vacancies which occur between elections shall be installed at the next meeting of the Student Legislature.

#### Section 4. Oath of Office

S.G.A. officers shall be bound by an oath to support this constitution, promote the highest ideals of honor, and to fulfill to the best of their ability the duties of their office.

#### Section 5. Runoff

If the leading candidate of an office does not obtain a majority of the votes, the candidate placing second has the right to call for a runoff between the two leading candidates of that particular office. The petition for a runoff shall be handed to the President of the S.G.A. within forty-eight hours after election results have been posted and shall not be valid unless it contains the signatures of at least ten percent of the student body according to the enrollment figures obtained from the Registrar's office at the beginning of the semester.

#### Section 6. Recall

The student body shall have the power to recall any officer elected by that body under this constitution. The petition to recall shall be handed to the S.G.A. President within forty-eight hours after election results have been posted and shall not be valid unless it contains the signatures of at least thirty percent of the student body according to enrollment figures obtained from the Registrar's office at the beginning of the semester. The S.G.A. President shall, if he finds the petition complying with this constitution, direct the Elections Committee to conduct a recall election of the office in question. The officer in question shall have the right to be a candidate.

#### Section 7. Initiative

The student body shall have the power to initiate an act within the power of the Student Legislature, provided ten percent of the student body, according to enrollment figures obtained from the Registrar's office at the beginning of the semester, shall sign a petition calling for consideration of a bill which shall submit in writing with the petition to the President of the S.G.A. The President shall, if he finds the petition complying with this constitution, direct the Elections Committee to conduct an election on the bill in not less than seven days nor more than fourteen days after receiving petition and the bill. Public notice of such an election must be given not less than four days prior to the election date. A majority of the votes cast at the election shall be sufficient to decide the issue.

#### Section 8. Review

The Student body shall have the power to call for a vote on any act of the Student Legislature, provided a petition calling for the vote and stating in writing the action which the referendum is to take shall be signed by ten percent of the student body, according to enrollment figures obtained from the Registrar's office at the beginning of the semester, and presented to the President of the S.G.A. The President shall, if he finds the petition complying with this constitution, direct the Elections Committee to conduct an election on the act in not less than seven days nor more than fourteen days after receiving the petition. Public notice of such an election must be given not less than four days prior to the election date. A majority of the votes cast at the election shall be sufficient to decide the issue.

### Article V. Amendment Procedure

#### Section 1.

Amendments to this constitution must be proposed in one of the methods listed below:

A. By a written petition presented to the S.G.A. President bearing the signatures of ten percent of the membership of the Student Legislature after being tabled for one week.

#### Section 2.

Proposed amendments to this constitution must be published in the official student newspaper at least one week prior to the date on which a vote is taken by the student body.

#### Section 3.

Amendments to the Constitution shall be incorporated by the methods of deletion and/or substitution. Amendments which are additive shall be placed in additional sections or paragraphs in the article to which they pertain.

#### Section 4.

Amendments to the constitution shall go into effect upon the signature of the President of the S.G.A.

### Article VI. By-Laws

By-laws to this constitution shall become valid when they are approved by a two-thirds majority vote of the Student Legislature, provided the motion has been tabled for two weeks.

### Article VII. Ratification

#### Section 1.

This Constitution shall be ratified by a majority of the voting student body. The ratification of this constitution shall revoke all previous constitutions of the Student Government Association.

#### Section 2.

This Constitution shall go into effect immediately upon its ratification by the Student Body of Chowan College.

# Cast Your Vote on February 12!